

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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San Nicolaas Water Tower in deplorable condition



is in full swing, according to Webb. We have observed that the Water Tower is in deplorable condition, but with the naked eye it is not possible to see exactly how terrible the physical structure of the building is. It is extremely important to know this with precision so that we can know how to proceed. We have discovered that the salt content in the cement is not high, but that the cement is very porous and is unable to withstand the weight of the building to keep it fully erect. It can be repaired, according to our experts, but will cost a fortune.

If we do nothing, most probably within 5 years, the water tower in San Nicolaas will tumble completely. Should we get a hurricane, we may have to say good bye to this building, were the words of Yvonne Webb, director of The Office of Monuments. Hence, according to Webb, to do nothing is not an option for us; we have to work diligently on our monuments. However, to work too rapidly on these structures is not the easiest thing to do either.

Whenever you begin to work on historic structures there are always certain surprises. Before anything, we must do some profound investigation as to what there is and as to what exactly is the physical condition of the structure before we can begin any kind of restoration work.

At the beginning of the year the Prime Minister had announced that work on the Water Tower in San Nicolaas would begin shortly. But those who live in the area and who traffic in the vicinity have not seen any kind of activity taking place at the Water Tower.

Nevertheless, work on the restoration of the Water Tower

is in full swing, according to Webb. We have observed that the Water Tower is in deplorable condition, but with the naked eye it is not possible to see exactly how terrible the physical structure of the building is. It is extremely important to know this with precision so that we can know how to proceed. We have discovered that the salt content in the cement is not high, but that the cement is very porous and is unable to withstand the weight of the building to keep it fully erect. It can be repaired, according to our experts, but will cost a fortune.

In our monumental decree we are required to use original material for all restorations, so as to not loose the status of a "Monument" of the building.

Mrs. Webb indicated that despite all the negative aspects of the structure, they are intent on salvaging this building. She claims that there are two possibilities: they can replace the concrete from the inside up to the center of the building, or they can erect a steel structure on the inside upon which the actual structure would rest. The exterior part of the building must remain exactly as it is right now in its original form. This includes the colors that they will use. They have gone to the length of removing layers of paint to find the original paint color that was used when the building was first erected eons ago.

At the end of the process it will be nothing less than a work of art to restore the Water Tower to its former glory standing tall and majestic in San Nicolaas.....but we must be patient, it may take a while!

Aruba based Air Ambulance service now provided by Tiara Air

Alejandro Muyale, CEO of Tiara Air, was proud to welcome island dignitaries, including the Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, and Venezuelan Consul Jesus Javier Ariea Fuenmayor, for the official blessing of the Learjet LR35A flying under the Tiara logo as a dedicated Air Ambulance.

"This project had many challenges," expressed Mr. Muyale after the ceremony on the tarmac conducted by Father Jairo Maduro at the Reina Beatrix International Airport yesterday morning, "it took 18 months to realize and finalize, but we are very proud to be able to offer this important service to the people of Aruba."

Mr. Muyale and Minister Oduber particularly singled out Drs. Cor Portier, CMO of the AZV, Aruba's national health plan, for initiating the realization of an Air Ambulance with Aruba as a home base, and Medical Institute of San Nicolas, ImSan, and its Director, J.L. Mud, for providing the state of the art equipment for the plan and trained medical technicians that will supervise transport.

Continued on page 4



Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber and Tiara CEO Alejandro Muyale



Father Jairo Maduro blesses the plane



All parties involved with the new Air Ambulance

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

US braces for debt deal vote amid default jitters

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republican lawmakers Thursday challenged Democratic foes to vote for their debt plan or risk a calamitous US default, in an acrimonious, lengthy showdown now threatening the world's fragile economy.

The House of Representatives was to vote on a two-step plan forged by Speaker John Boehner to raise the nation's \$14.3 trillion debt limit even though a majority of senators have vowed to block it and the White House has said it will veto the bill.

With only five days to go before an August 2 deadline when the US Treasury says it will no longer be able to bor-

row funds to pay its bills, stock markets remained nervous that a fragile economic recovery after the 2008 global financial crisis could be at risk.

Democrats have slammed Boehner's plan which would raise the debt ceiling for just a few months, saying it would only plunge the world's economic superpower back into crisis at the start of the 2012 presidential election year.

Boehner admitted his plan was "not perfect," but he said there were no "gimmicks or smoke screens."

"For the sake of jobs and for the sake of our country, I am asking the representatives in the House in a bipartisan

way and asking my colleagues in the Senate, let's pass this bill and end this crisis."

Republican House Majority Leader Eric Cantor also appealed to Democrats, saying Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid had several choices.

One is to suffer the economic consequences of default, which I hope, which all of us hope, he doesn't choose," Cantor said.

But Reid vowed the Boehner proposal, which would shave \$915 billion off the national deficit over 10 years in return for hiking the debt ceiling by some \$900 billion, would fail in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

N. Korea calls nuclear talks with US 'constructive'

NEW YORK (AFP) - The United States tested North Korea's willingness to negotiate giving up its nuclear arsenal on Thursday in talks that a top North Korean official said had been "constructive".

"The atmosphere was good, the meeting was constructive and interesting. We exchanged views on general issues," North Korea's first vice foreign minister Kim Kye-Gwan said during a break on the first day of the talks in New York.

Kim negotiated with the US special envoy on North Korea, Stephen Bosworth, at the US mission to the United Nations in what Washington has insisted are just "exploratory" talks.

The United States has stressed that it wants to see if the Pyongyang regime is serious about living up to past commitments on its nuclear weapons.

The United States considers progress on disarmament to be key to any hopes of improving six decades of hostile US-

North Korea ties.

The invitation to New York was made after a meeting between the nuclear envoys from North and South Korea at an Asian security forum in Bali, Indonesia last week.

The international community is anxious to see North Korea return to six-nation nuclear disarmament talks, which broke down in late 2008.

North Korea agreed in principle in 2005 to scrap its weapons program, but staged nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

The North's disclosure in November that it had a uranium enrichment plant, adding a new means to produce atomic weapons, has become a new complicating factor in the talks the North has held with the United States, China, South Korea, Japan and Russia.

US State Department spokesman Mark Toner reaffirmed Thursday that the United States wants to see North Korea keep its 2005 promise to give up nuclear weapons.

Mubaraks to be tried in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt's ex-president Hosni Mubarak's murder trial on August 3 will take place in Cairo, the state



news agency MENA said Thursday, a move likely to appease activists but create a logistical nightmare.

Mubarak, ousted in February by a popular revolt, has been under arrest in hospital in the Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh, where he is being treated for a heart condition.

Health Minister Amr Hilmi told reporters Mubarak's health was "good" and that he was fit to be transferred to Cairo.

But one of Mubarak's doctors told AFP they had received no warning that they should prepare for his transfer.

Mubarak's transfer to Cairo was a key demand of protesters whose relations

with the ruling military and government have strained in the past weeks partly over accusations that they are delaying trials of former regime officials.

Tareq Khuli, a leader of the April 6 movement that has held a 20 day sit-in in Cairo's Tahrir Square to call for faster reforms, hailed the announcement but said his group would keep up pressure to make sure it is implemented.

Mubarak, 83, will stand trial with his two sons and his former interior minister Habib al-Adli, who are imprisoned in Cairo.

Six police commanders are also included as defendants, as is a businessman close to Mubarak who fled the country and was arrested in Spain.

Mubarak is charged with ordering the shooting of anti-regime demonstrators during the revolt, abuse of office for illicit gains and squandering public funds.

The justice minister has said Mubarak may be executed if found guilty of the murder charge.

THE MORNING NEWS

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Former Dutch minister to head UN I. Coast mission

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday named former Dutch cabinet minister Bert Koenders to become the new head of the UN mission in Ivory Coast.

Koenders will take the place of South Korean Choi Young-Jin who will leave on August 31 after heading the mission, UNOCI, through the political turmoil in Ivory Coast after a disputed election last November.

UN troops helped President Alassane Ouattara force

out incumbent Laurent Gbagbo amid unrest in which at least 3,000 people were killed.

development cooperation minister and official for the European Commission and United Nations.

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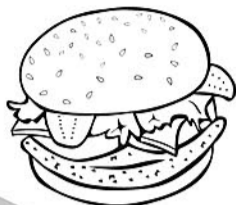
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Education for Employment spreading her wings



After a stand-still for 2.5 years the popular program of the Enseñansa pa Empleo (EPE) (Education for Employment) is back on track and spreading her wings with even more course offerings, thanks to the attention received from Minister of Tourism and Labor, Otmar Oduber.

Since the restart of the

program in 2010, more than 5 thousand persons have registered for different courses and there is currently about 10 to 15 courses ready to begin shortly. Based on the large number of registrations, we can conclude that there is reason to believe that this program has a reason for its existence.

It is interesting to report

that the EPE has begun to spread her wings: they are now offering courses to inmates at KIA, and courses at the different auxiliary government offices. The Minister, in his remarks, reiterated that "...Enseñansa pa Empleo has demonstrated her reason for existence which is to be of vital assistance to our community."

Asphalt roads construction at Bubali

ORANJESTAD –Aruba Department of Public Works – DOW - announces to the public that as Monday, July 31, 2011, the department will start with construction of asphalt roads in Bubali. The road construction will be from Bubali #90 until Bubali #112-D,

Bubali # 112-D until Bubali # 112-A and Bubali # 98-A until Bubali # 100-A.

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small part will stay open for those needing to access their home or office. The closure will be indicated with barricades and traffic signs.

DOW kindly asks patience and cooperation, and apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause

A Certification program will propel Aruba to a new level of excellence

ORANJESTAD -- Last Wednesday, Minister Otmar Oduber had the honor of initiating the Certification Program designed for the hospitality industry. This special certification program, under the caption..."Mi Compromiso cu Aruba," or "My Commitment to Aruba" is the brainchild of the Minister of Tourism.

The idea for a certification program was born way back in 2009 at the start of the new Eman government and was crystallized in the first months of the 2010 meetings with the different stakeholders of our community. The consensus is to have Aruba serve as the trendsetter in the Caribbean with a concentration on applied quality.

Enseñansa pa Empleo and ATA were assisted by the University of Aruba and the Department of Culture in the preparation of the different courses and a handbook for the course participants to use as a guide to enhance their knowledge.

On Wednesday the program was begun with a pilot Group of 14 persons from different institutions in the community. The intention is to include everyone who in one way or the other is in daily contact with our visitors, which represents about 77% of our community.

The Minister reported that

the majority of our Hotels have indicated that they will commit themselves to sending their employees to follow this certification program. The Minister hopes that by the end of 2011 they will have certified 300 to 500 persons and that within the next two years we should have raised the level of our tourism industry to still another level of excellence.

Oduber indicated that in the past 25 years many people came to Aruba from abroad to help us grow our economy who contributed to our tourism growth. He is convinced that a certification program of this caliber...4 weeks meeting twice weekly for 4 hours, will be a fantastic medium to help those who have come from abroad to work in our tourism industry to learn about our history, culture and how our tourism has evolved.

The Certification Program has the following components:

Workshop number 1: The Tourism Industry

- Module 1: History of our tourism
- Module 2: A View of our tourism development
- Module 3: The infrastructure of our tourism
- Module 4: The tourism attractions on our island
- Module 5: The development of the Aruba Product

Continued on page 5



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Aruba based Air Ambulance service now provided by Tiara Air

Continued from page 1



ImSan Director J.L. Mud



ImSan Director Mud explains the equipment to Minister Oduber



Tiara ground crew and ImSan ambulance



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"It is the collaboration and cooperation of all these agencies which has made this Air Ambulance possible," they concluded.

Drs. Portier pointed out the necessity of having an Air Ambulance readily available to Aruban residents and visitors, and cited that of the 1000+ patients who must travel abroad for medical treatment under the AZV plan, about 10% are on an emergency basis. "In such a situation, when time is of the essence, perhaps the difference between life and death, having an Air Ambulance able to transport within an hour is of extreme importance." For the last 12 years, patients on Aruba were

forced to wait until a specialized plane arrived, usually from Latin America.

ImSan Director Mud also acknowledged the necessity of offering this service, estimating their facility easily transports 3 to 4 trauma patients, usually from car accidents, nearly every weekend. The Air Ambulance will also be available to sister islands of Curaçao and Bonaire, when needed and accompanied by a family member is included in the fee.

A final toast by representatives of all the agencies involved in bringing the Air Ambulance into service completed the morning's event.

by Rosalie Klein

Jamie and Clint say 'I Do' to each other on Sunny Aruba



On July 25, 2011, Jamie Johnson and Clint Croshaw said "I do" at one of Aruba's Landmark, the famous Fofoti Tree.

The couple met in hard times and became close friends; and as the relationship grew they became more than friends.

They had been dating for over 4 years, when on their shared birthday, while seeing a Broadway Show in New York City, Clint proposed! When they started looking for THE place for their destination wedding Aruba received great reviews from every one they spoke to.

After a beautiful ceremony the festivities continued at Pas-

sions On the Beach, where the couple dined and danced, accompanied by family members and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Croshaw expressed that they were extremely pleased with the quality of service and courtesy of the staff of Passions, Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, and the friendly people of Aruba. They are excited and looking forward to spend the rest of their lives together.

The Morning News, Ms. Anne Maduro and Mrs. Lissy Lampe would like to congratulate the lovely couple and wish them a happy and long life together as husband and wife!

A Certification program...

Continued from page 3

Workshop number 2: Excellence in Tourism

- Module 1: Excellent Service
- Module 2: Excellent Communication
- Module 3: Excellent Attitude

Workshop number 3: Knowledge of Aruba

- Module 1: History of Aruba
- Module 2: The Characteristics of Aruba

- Module 3: Culture and Folklore
- Module 4: The past and present industries

Workshop number 4: Sustainable development

- Module 1: The importance of sustainability
- Module 2: The initiatives for a sustainable Aruba
- Module 3: Your contribution for a sustainable Aruba

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Brant Blair doubles his win at Cool Casino

Brant Blair, a guest of the Occidental Grand Aruba, walked over to Cool Casino, at the Riu Palace and won a \$5,000 jackpot. A few days later he again sauntered over to the neighboring property and claimed an even bigger win, a \$5,628 jackpot.

Cool Casino had just recently celebrated its 4th anniversary with a flurry of activities and giveaways.

Cool Casino boasts the latest generation of slot machines and while it is only four years old, it has just undergone a total make-over of the gaming floor, and players are amazed at the variety of



new machines, including progressives and video poker offered in all denominations with paybacks varying in frequency and size, amounting to many thousands of dollars!

The latest in electronic

and video slot machines in the world is now available at the Riu's elegant Cool Casino, and players are served complimentary beverages while having fun and winning.

Sci-Tech

China cracks down on wi-fi in public spaces

CHINA (AFP) -- China has ordered public spaces offering wi-fi web access to install costly software to enable police to identify people using the service, state media said Thursday.

The software, which also gives police a list of all websites visited by an online user, costs between 20,000 yuan (\$3,100) and 60,000 yuan, the China Business News said.

As a result, many establishments such as bars, restaurants, cafes and bookstores have decided to stop providing wireless Internet to their customers despite its popularity, to avoid paying the money, the report said.

In Beijing, cafe and restaurant owners have been told they face a minimum fine of 5,000 yuan if they continue to offer wireless without installing the software, it said.

"In serious cases," offenders could see their Internet cut off for up to six months, the report said.

Cafe owners in Shanghai and in the eastern city of Hangzhou contacted by the official China Daily newspaper said they had also been notified of the new measure, which other reports have said is being rolled out nationwide.

The software is purportedly designed to supervise "illegal activities," the report said.

"It's a requirement of the public security organs. Why should we pay the fees?" Yang Xiaowen, manager of UBC Coffee in Beijing, told the China Daily.

"For a reason that everyone is aware of, we are temporarily stopping our wi-fi service," announced the Beijing-based Kubrick bookstore, according to the China Business News.

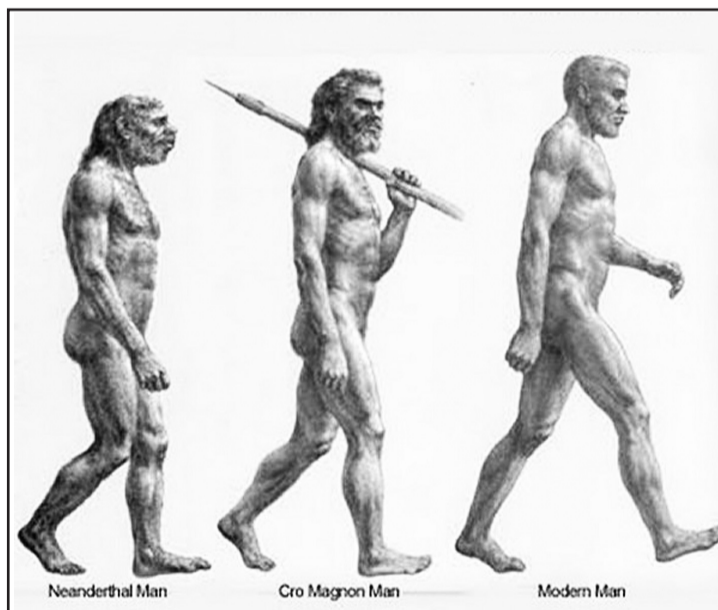
The report also raised questions about ties between police and the software maker Rainsoft, a company founded in 1998 that reportedly collaborates with public security organs in many Chinese provinces.

China -- which has the world's largest online population with 485 million users -- constantly strives to exert its control over the Internet, blocking content it deems politically sensitive as part of a vast censorship system.

In one high-profile case in 2009, it ordered computer makers to add an Internet filter software to all new personal computers sold in the country, saying it would shelter children from pornographic and violent web content.

But it was forced to back down on the plan just ahead of the deadline after an outcry in China and abroad.

Modern humans crowded out Europe's Neanderthals



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A swell of modern humans outnumbered Neanderthals in Europe by nearly 10 to one, forcing their extinction 40,000 years ago, suggested a study of French archeology sites on Thursday.

Scientists have long debated what caused the Neanderthals to die off rather suddenly, making way for the thriving population of more advanced Homo sapiens who likely moved in from Africa.

The latest theory, published in the journal Science, is based on a statistical analysis of artifacts and evidence from the Perigord region of southern France, where lies

the largest concentration of Neanderthal and early modern human sites in Europe.

Researchers at the University of Cambridge found more sites where modern humans settled, larger settlement areas, greater densities of tools and bigger amounts of animal and food remains, suggesting Neanderthals were crowded out.

Homo sapiens also likely had more elaborate social networks and possibly sharper brains, as evidenced by the stone tools, jewelry and artwork they left behind which was much more advanced than Neanderthal creations.

Their arrival in such large numbers likely forced Neanderthals from their habitual settlements and into places where food and shelter were harder to find, said lead author Paul Mellars of Cambridge University.

"It was clearly this range of new technological and behavioral innovations which allowed the modern human populations to invade and survive in much larger population numbers than those of the preceding Neanderthals across the whole of the European continent," he said.

"Faced with this kind of competition, the Neanderthals seem to have retreated initially into more marginal and less attractive regions of the continent."

The last traces of Neanderthals, who had survived on the continent for some 300,000 years, have been uncovered in caves in modern-day Spain and Gibraltar.

Mellars suggested a final death blow may have been delivered by a harsh cold snap, a theory that has been debated in the scientific community for many years.

The Neanderthals' extinction may have been "accelerated further by sudden climatic deterioration across the continent around 40,000 years ago," he said.

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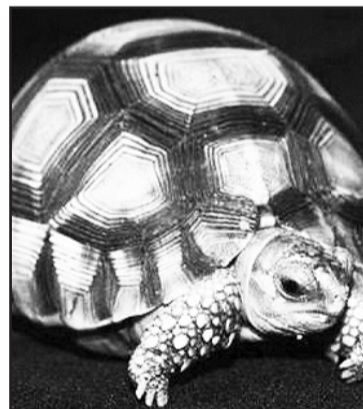
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Poachers nabbed with world's rarest tortoise



MADAGASCAR --Police in Madagascar have arrested two men attempting to smuggle out nearly 200 threatened tortoises, including two dozen of the rarest species on Earth, a conservation group said Thursday.

The 26 specimens of Ploughshare tortoise (*Aspachelys yniphora*) seized

comprise about five percent of the estimated surviving wild population of the critically endangered animal, native to northern Madagascar.

Authorities found the live tortoises in a box and three bags on the tarmac at Antananarivo's Ivato Airport, according to TRAFFIC, which monitors illegal trade in wildlife.

The wild population of Ploughshares, which grow to 40 centimetres (16 inches) and up to 10 kilos (22 pounds), has dwindled rapidly in recent decades, and is estimated at 440 to 700 individuals.

Historically eaten locally as a delicacy, its habitat has been drastically reduced by agricultural practices, especially the burning of fields. The main threat today is poaching for the illegal pet trade, according to the IUCN.

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Health & Living

10 million illegal drug users have hepatitis C

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Some 10 million people who inject illegal drugs have hepatitis C while 1.2 million have hepatitis B, according to the first global estimate of infection rates among this population, published this week.

Both viral diseases are debilitating and potentially deadly, and public health officials must step up efforts to combat blood-borne transmission and to lower treatment costs, the researchers urged.

The health and economic costs of hepatitis C (HCV) spread via injected drugs, on its own, may be as high or higher than for similarly transmitted cases of HIV, they said.

The study, published in the British journal *The Lancet*, found that fully two-thirds of the global population of "injecting drug users" have been exposed, and thus infected, to HCV.

About 80 percent are destined to develop chronic infections, and up to 11 percent of these individuals will, within two decades, suffer cirrhosis, which can cause liver failure and cancer.

There is currently no vaccine for the hepatitis C virus.

The portion of drug users with HCV -- inferred from the presence of hepatitis C antibody -- varied among the 77 countries from which data was collected.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) can be transmitted intravenously, as well as via sexual contact, and from mother to child.

There are 350 million people chronically infected worldwide, almost all of them exposed to the virus as children. "This is why universal infant vaccination against hepatitis B is so crucial to long term control of the virus," the authors note.



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Australia probes Philippine organ allegations

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australian police said Thursday they had launched their first organ trafficking investigation after an elderly kidney patient reportedly brought a Filipina to Sydney for harvesting purposes.

Police said a house had been raided in March in relation to "suspected organ traf-

ficking" and a probe was under way.

"This is the first organ trafficking case investigated by the Australian Federal Police," a spokeswoman told AFP.

Officers usually tasked with people trafficking and sex slavery crimes were examining the case, she added,

declining to detail the specific allegations.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald the case relates to an elderly woman with a kidney condition who brought a younger woman from the Philippines with the intent to harvest an organ.

The deal was reportedly made without the Filipina's

full consent and uncovered during pre-surgical screening interviews at a Sydney hospital.

Transplant Australia said there were 1,951 people on the national organ waiting list and strict donation procedures meant an illegal transplant involving a trafficked organ would be almost im-

possible to carry out.

"If someone walks in and says, 'Hey, this is my friend from the Philippines,' it would immediately raise suspicions," said Kidney Health Australia director Tim Matthew.

"No one in the medical system is going to risk doing that."

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Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00



Stunning sunset



PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

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Osso Buco with Risotto

food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. Reservations can be made by calling 586- 0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-la-trattoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.



Risotto Frutti de Mare



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Aimee Cote and Andres Vera are wed



A lovely sunset wedding was celebrated just recently for Aimee Cote and Andres Vera on the beach, at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. It was the couple's first time on the island, and it served as the perfect setting for a multinational gathering of their families hailing from Ciudad Bolivar in Venezuela and from Massachusetts USA.

The lovebirds who presently reside in the USA were surrounded by 24 loving family members and friends, who witnessed the exchange of wedding vows and blessings, sealed with a kiss, officiated by a local reverend.

The weekend festivities included the beach ceremony, a cocktail reception and an elegant dinner banquet under the tropical sky on the pool deck of the resort.



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New Ordinances of Law submitted to Parliament designed to benefit young Aruban professionals

ORANJESTAD -- President of Parliament interrupted his vacation to appear in Parliament last week to receive the proposed new ordinances to be deliberate on as soon as Parliament resumes after its recess in a few weeks. The government is intent on passing these laws the soonest possible, hence the reason for the urgency to submit them now so Parliament can attend to them first thing upon their return to office.

One of the proposed laws is regarding a 30% reduction on the student loan that Aruban students get to study abroad. The government has ascer-

tained that in the last few years a growing number of students, our young professionals, who complete their years of study in the Netherlands, are choosing to remain in Holland to work. It is believed that they are not remaining in the Netherlands because they do not want to come back to their homeland, but because they are faced with two student loans. One loan from Aruba, and one from the Netherlands. The latter loan they are required to repay in Euro's. These loans weigh very heavy on the student. The difference between the Aruban florin and

the Euro is great and getting greater which causes the weight of the debt to be much stiffer.

The government says, they want to bring a change in this situation for our young professionals by offering them an incentive to come back home. Here at home we need to create jobs for them. It has been the case in the past few years that many have returned only to discover that there were no suitable jobs for them. However, in view of our growing economy today, there would be more opportunities now.

The 30% reduction on their

study loan will certainly serve as an excellent incentive, according to the Prime Minister.

The conditions for qualifying for the 30% reduction are:

* The program of study must be completed on October 30th 2009 or thereafter

* The program of study was completed within the prescribed time or within the normal duration of the study loan

* The graduate has returned to Aruba within three years following the termination of his/her study and has been reinstated at the Census Office

* The student submits a request for the 30% reduction to the Minister of Finance accompanied by a legalized copy of their diploma, proof of registration at the Census Office and a declaration from their employer.

The other proposed law submitted to Parliament is the law of Social Formation.

This law will offer a new opportunity to young people between 18 to 24 years of age who are not attending school and are unemployed. This law will give them an opportunity to receive guidance and to find the right way of life. They will be allowed to join the Marines and be subject to the process of social formation. This process entails 4 months of training at the Marines Camp here, where Lieutenant Werleman and his team will prepare and guide these young people. The 4 months of training will focus on teaching them discipline, values and norms and responsibility. According to the Prime Minister, "this way we will be able to create young people with a sense of civility and a firm base of proper morals and values which will guarantee them a successful life. We are certain that many parents, especially those who have trouble with their young people, will be delighted with this initiative by the government."

If Parliament passes the law on Social Formation, in the month of September the first 20 young people will be incorporated into this social formation program.

It is important that this program have a legal basis, hence the reason for making it into law. After the initial 4 months of intensive training at the Marines' Camp the young people will follow a choice of one or 3 trades. They can choose the trade that fits best them and will follow this for 7 months.

At the end of the 11 month training program, they can either apply for work (outside the Marines Camp), return to school, all along receiving the necessary support and help from the government to find their niche.

It is the intention of the government to accept 40 youngsters every year into this program.

The Prime Minister had words of praise for the Dutch Minister of Internal Affairs who helped with the financing of this social formation project. Likewise, his praise for the cooperation and contribution from the Aruba Marine Corps and the Enseñanza pa Empleo who also played an important role in realizing this project.

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COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Trio following C
4. Flowery season (abbr.)
7. Weekend-lover's letters
11. Norma or Charlotte
12. Work hard
14. ___-Disney (amusement park)
15. Order to appear in court
17. Toll road
18. LP abbr.
19. Bridle part
21. Cigar leftovers
24. Least spicy
27. Karate blow
28. Negotiate
29. Fight
30. Scot's cap
31. Electric units
32. Sounds of uncertainty
33. WSW's opp.
34. Arden and Plumb
35. James Garner role on "Maverick"
36. Give up hope
38. Wish well
39. Pulled by doubts
40. Costello of comedy
41. In ___ of (instead of)

43. Sundae

43. Sundae toppers
48. Epps of "House"
49. Actress Skye
50. ___ in the bud
51. Clumps
52. Sullivan and Wynn
53. Heredity initials

DOWN

1. Hosp. workers
2. Water (Fr.)
3. Second mo.
4. Prevents
5. Haiku or ode
6. "___ Tin Tin"
7. Halfhearted
8. "Camelot" heroine

9. Aggravate

9. Aggravate
10. Rival
13. Cowboys' ropes
16. Ready a patient
20. Building additions
21. Played Hamlet
22. Alan Ladd movie role
23. Settler's dwelling place
24. Parking machine
25. Forefathers
26. Trials
28. Painter Leonardo ___ (2 wds.)
31. Dress in

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CAS MARIE
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Care Center
Tel: 5696910

Important
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Numbers

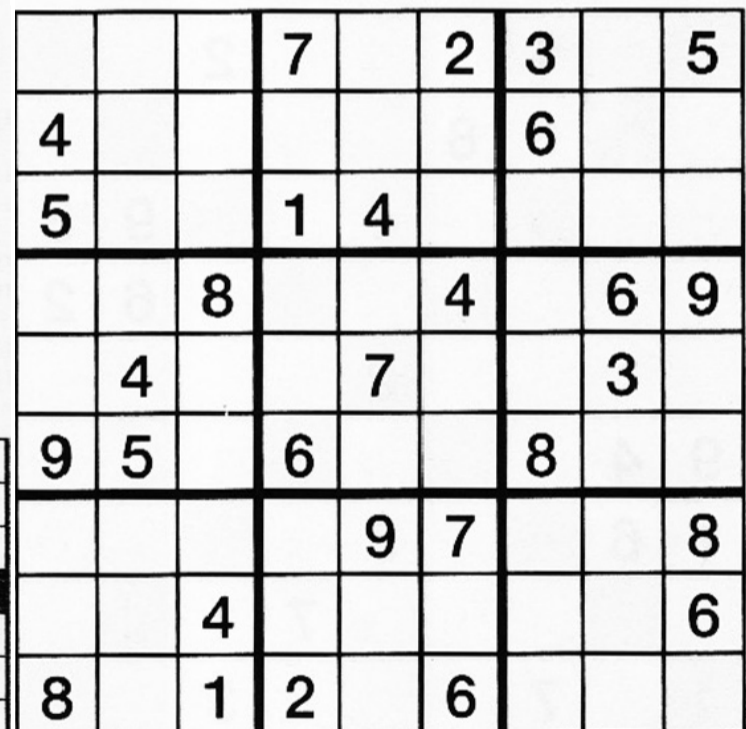
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Horacio Oduber Hospital
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Telephone 100

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582-5447
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Sabana Liber 8 in Noord
Tel: 5673356 / 5838989

Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	6	7	9	5	2	1	4	3
9	9	2	8	1	6	7	6	2
8	2	1	2	6	7	9	9	8
7	2	8	1	2	9	8	9	6
1	8	9	6	2	8	2	7	9
6	9	2	7	8	9	8	1	2
2	8	6	8	7	1	9	2	9
2	1	9	9	8	6	2	8	7
9	7	8	2	9	2	6	8	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Oil prices mixed amid US debt standoff

NEW YORK (AFP) - World oil prices were mixed on Thursday as traders kept a close eye on the debt-ceiling standoff in Washington for signs of how it would impact the world's largest economy.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in September, gained four cents to close at \$97.44 a barrel.

In London, Brent North Sea crude for September fell seven cents to \$117.36 a barrel on the IntercontinentalExchange.

Politicians in Washington have been locked in a tense stalemate over raising the US government's \$14.29 trillion debt ceiling despite a looming deadline, now only five days away, for a possible default.

The market is "waiting to see what happens with the debt ceiling," said Matt Smith, an analyst with Summit Energy. "We have other influences but really we are solely focused on that."

The US Treasury has warned that if Congress fails to raise the borrowing limit by Tuesday, the United States may be forced to default on its debts, which could have catastrophic effects on financial markets.

The prolonged standoff has already rattled investors in the United States, which as the world's biggest consumer of oil plays a key role in determining global energy demand.

Analysts said market sentiment got a boost from the

US Labor Department's announcement that new claims for unemployment benefits fell to 398,000 last week, their lowest level in nearly four months.

Meanwhile US stocks ended mixed on Thursday, as markets nervously awaited a resolution to the debt-ceiling standoff in Washington, with the deadline for potential financial catastrophe only five days away.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 59.64 points (0.48 percent) to 12,242.91 in closing trade. It has now fallen for five straight trading days amid jitters over the debt ceiling.

The broader S&P 500 dropped 4.00 points (0.31 percent) to 1,300.89, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite eked out a slight gain, rising 1.57 points to 2,766.36.

The US Treasury says that

if the government's \$14.29 trillion debt ceiling is not raised by Tuesday, it could be forced to default on its debts, which could have ruinous effects on financial markets.

But the standoff showed no signs of ending on Thursday as the Republican-led House of Representatives planned to vote on a debt-reduction plan which the Democrat-led Senate was almost certain to reject.

US judge tosses lawsuit blocking stem cell funds

WASHINGTON (AFP) - In a victory for President Barack Obama's administration, a US federal judge dismissed a lawsuit that had temporarily blocked government funding for embryonic stem cell research.

The ruling was issued by Judge Royce Lamberth, who last year saw merit in the plaintiffs' case and stunned many scientists by ordering a halt to taxpayer spending on the research while the legal battle was resolved.

In the end, Lamberth, the chief judge of the US District Court for the District of Columbia, decided to uphold an

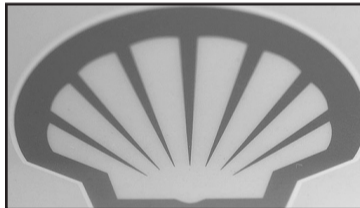
appeals court decision in April that ruled against the plaintiffs, two scientists who argued it was illegal to use government cash for research that destroys human embryos.

His decision was immediately hailed by the National Institutes of Health, which allocated about \$40 million to human embryonic stem cell research in 2010 and has set aside \$125 million this year -- a tiny fraction of its \$31 billion budget.

The White House also applauded the move, calling the ruling "good news" for people with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or heart disease.

Shell profits soar on high oil prices

LONDON (AFP) - Oil major Royal Dutch Shell said Thursday that net profits almost doubled to \$8.6 billion (6.0 billion euros) in the second quarter, when the energy sector was boosted by surging



crude oil prices.

"Our second quarter 2011 earnings were higher than year-ago levels, driven by increased energy prices and Shell's operating performances," Chief Executive Peter Voser said in a results statement.

Profits in the second-quarter of 2010 had stood at \$4.4 billion, according to Shell, which is Europe's biggest oil company.

Adjusted net profits, stripping out gains in the value of Shell's energy inventories, jumped to almost \$8.0 billion between April and June from \$4.5 billion last time around.

Oil prices soared during the reporting period amid violent unrest in the crude-producing Middle East and North Africa

region.

The Anglo-Dutch group added that production dropped in the quarter by 2.0 percent to 3.0 million barrels of oil equivalent per day.

Voser said that the outlook for the rest of the year was positive.

Shell's update comes two days after rival BP said it had bounced back into profit in the second quarter thanks to high oil prices and after a huge loss last year caused by costs linked to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster.

Shell's shares closed 0.11 percent up at 2,275 pence on London's benchmark FTSE 100 index, which finished 0.28 percent higher at 5,873.21 points.

The oil sector was further boosted on Thursday after ExxonMobil, the world's largest energy firm, revealed that second-quarter profits rocketed 41 percent to \$10.68 billion amid surging prices for crude.

Madoff 'feeder funds' agree \$1 bn settlement

NEW YORK (AFP) - Companies accused of aiding Bernard Madoff's vast pyramid scheme have agreed to pay more than \$1 billion to settle a fraud lawsuit, the trustee charged with recovering Madoff's funds said Thursday.

More than a dozen investment funds and a former chief executive of Tremont Group - accused of running the second-largest Madoff "feeder fund" -- signed on to the settlement, the trustee, Irving Picard, said in a statement.

Tremont, a multibillion-dollar money management firm based in New York, funnelled investors' cash to Madoff investment business while ignoring warning signs that he was running a giant fraud, according to Picard.

Also included in the settlement were Tremont's parent companies, Oppenheimer Acquisition Corp., which runs the Oppenheimer family of mutual funds, and the Massa-

chusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company.

The settlement brings the total amount of funds that Picard has recovered from Madoff's scheme to \$8.6 billion. This month, a court permitted the first payment from the recovered monies to Madoff's victims.

Picard has filed numerous lawsuits against those he alleged were complicit in the Madoff fraud, including Wall Street bank JPMorgan Chase and the owners of the New York Mets baseball team.

Madoff, 72, is serving a 150-year prison term for masterminding what is considered one of the biggest pyramid schemes ever, which by his account took in \$65 billion dollars before it was uncovered in December 2008.

His victims, who invested with him over more than two decades, included charities, major banks, Hollywood moguls and savvy financial players.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

E	M	T	S	L	I	M	C	E	L
S	E	A	P	E	D	A	L	A	T
E	L	L	I	N	S	T	A	L	E
K	E	N	S	G	E	L			
G	L	O	S	S	D	I	G	E	S
R	E	F	S	R	I	M	E	T	R
E	A	T	D	A	V	I	D	H	U
A	S	H	E	V	E	N	S	E	N
T	H	E	A	T	E	R	P	E	S
T	U	E	A	R	C	H			
R	I	O	G	R	A	N	D	E	
B	M	W	S	L	E	D	S	T	R
I	A	N	L	O	S	S	S	K	I

Breakfast
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

EGG DISHES
*2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese
*Scrambled with ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, tomato, mushroom
*Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom
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*CONCH
*FISH EGG
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A must see while on Aruba!

Baby Beach



BABY BEACH, is a shallow, sheltered man-made lagoon located in Seroe Colorado, on the southeast end of the island of Aruba, and is frequented by locals and tourists alike. It is named Baby Beach as the water is so calm it is safe for small children. The snorkeling at this location is great for children or travelers new to snorkeling.

The benefits of this beach include the lack of waves and that nearby waters are shallow enough to stand. The water in the deeper areas, as well as around the rest of Aruba, is cool and refreshing year-round. There is a large Valero

oil refinery within sight of Baby Beach. However, because of the direction of local currents, Baby Beach still has very clean, clear water. In the past, Baby Beach's popularity led it to become somewhat littered. However, clean-up programs have largely restored the beach to a pristine condition.

The water level is generally waist high on the inside, but towards the inlet, it deepens significantly. Marine life includes barracuda, squid, parrot fish, blowfish, angel fish, eels, snakes and a lot of other small fish, although the range of most of these animals is limited to the inlet.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



New Clubhouse

Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups

that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive



amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services

with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cook-outs and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/ dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



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-Yolanda Cellucci, Boston, Mass

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-Leopold family, New York

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STARRING: Adam Steinfeld

WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino Aruba

THEATER OPENS: 8:30PM

BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM

COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40

TICKETS: at the theater door

GROUP SALES: (297) 561-1090

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WestinAruba.com/magic

Anderson Cooper strikes balance with new TV duties



LOS ANGELES, California - Will Anderson Cooper be able to balance his duties as CNN's primetime star -- and frequent foreign correspondent -- with his new gig as a daytime talk show host?

Aside from queries about his upbringing, that was the question du jour during Tuesday's session with Cooper at the Television Critics Association's Summer Tour.

Cooper's answer? Yes --

without equivocation or reservation.

"We can do full daytime wherever I am or insert a live top," he said. "We have complete flexibility to respond to events as we see warranted."

More to the point, he already balances his contributions to "60 Minutes" and feels comfortable adding a far larger commitment, which "Anderson" will be.

"I manage my time very well," he said. "It's all very doable. It's a lot of work, but I like to work hard ... plus it's TV, so it's not like it's real work."

When one reporter pointed out Cooper would be missing tonight's show and suggested that his new job is already affecting his primetime show, Cooper said it would be just his seventh day of vacation all year -- and that he is sick.

"I get 30 days off a year...and I end the year without taking 10 days of vacation," he said. "I've left just about every vacation I've ever had to cover stories."

Royal rebel and rugby star are like 'fire and ice'



LONDON (AFP) - England rugby hero Mike Tindall, who will enter Britain's royal family when he marries Zara Phillips on Saturday, admits the couple are like "fire and ice".

One could be forgiven for thinking the burly, broken-nosed, shaven-headed battler was the hothead and the regal horserider with delicate features would be the more cool and calm.

However, Tindall insists

the reverse is true -- and Phillips, Queen Elizabeth II's grand-daughter and so-called "royal rebel", agrees with him.

"The fire and ice thing is true to a certain extent," he told Reader's Digest.

"Being angry doesn't come naturally to me. Zara isn't like that. She'll say how she feels and show her emotions."

Phillips is a driven character, having been told she would not be getting an easy ride in life by her no-nonsense mother Princess Anne, who stopped her and her brother Peter from having royal titles.

Phillips admitted in a BBC radio interview that while she was "obsessive" and busy about the house, Tindall was "very laid back... he's practically horizontal".

Some thought the relationship wouldn't work as their

backgrounds are so different.

However, they found mutual understanding in being world-beating sports stars and knowing the sanctity of precious time away from the buzz and strains of top-level competition.

Tindall was part of England's victorious 2003 World Cup campaign in Australia, while Phillips won the individual gold at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany.

Phillips was born to the queen's only daughter and horseman Captain Mark Phillips, who won gold for Britain in the team three-day event at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Tindall, from Yorkshire in northern England, is the son of a prison worker father, while his mother is a social worker. One of his first jobs was serving fish and chips.



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Lochte shatters record drought, Phelps



Lochte in action

SHANGHAI (AFP) - America's Ryan Lochte broke a 19-month record drought and deepened Michael Phelps' season of woe Thursday as he won a thrilling 200m individual medley at the world championships in Shanghai.

In a high-tempo evening at Oriental Sports Centre, Australian hotshot James Magnussen delivered a fifth-to-first victory in the 100m freestyle and Jiao Liuyang claimed China's fourth swimming gold in the women's 200m butterfly.

Lochte out-duelled Olympic champion Phelps to win the medley in 1min 54.00sec, shaving one tenth of a second off his 2009 world record, with his teammate taking silver and Hungary's Laszlo Cseh third.

With the win, the 26-year-old Lochte retained his world title and earned further bragging rights over his long-time

rival, who is struggling to reach the level that has earned him 14 Olympic gold medals.

Lochte also ended a lengthy barren streak which had seen no long-course records broken since super-fast polyurethane swimsuits were banned at the start of last year.

"I knew it was going to be a battle between Michael and I. I got the better end this time," Lochte said. "Any time you break a world record, you've got to be excited. I trained really hard and it paid off."

Phelps enjoyed a slim early lead over the butterfly leg but Lochte, swimming in the adjacent lane, edged it over the backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle sections to win by 0.16sec.

Lochte had already beaten Phelps to win the 200m freestyle title, turning the screw on his out-of-sorts

team-mate after Phelps was part of the United States' relay team that lost its six-year grip on the 4x100m relay on day one.

But Phelps stormed back with a dominant win in the 200m butterfly, which is not one of Lochte's events, sealing the 23rd world title of his record-breaking career as the clock ticks down to his retirement next year.

In the 100m freestyle final, Magnussen was well out of the medals at the turn but he roared past the field over the second 50m to take it in 47.63sec ahead of Canada's Brent Hayden and William Meynard of France.

Brazilian defending champion and world record-holder Cesar Cielo, who has been in the firing line after testing positive for a banned diuretic, was fourth, just one-hundredth of a second off a bronze medal.

In the women's 200m butterfly, Jiao led from start to finish to win ahead of Britain's Ellen Gandy and world record-holder Liu Zige of China. Australia's two-time defending champion Jessicah Schipper was joint last.

Russia's Anastasia Zueva won the women's 50m backstroke in 27.79sec, ahead of Aya Terakawa of Japan and Melissa Franklin, who then led the United States to a rousing win in the women's 4x200m.



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Goal-line technology possible at 2014 World Cup

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said goal-line technology could be in use for the 2014 World Cup finals if a system is proved to be reliable and affordable.

There has been a huge push for football to follow sports such as cricket and tennis in embracing technological help for officials with the argument brought into sharp focus by England having a 'goal' ruled out against Germany at the last World Cup despite replays having shown that the ball had crossed the line.

"In March next year, we will have a final decision on goal-line technology. If it's proved to be accurate and affordable, it's possible that the international board will adopt this technology during the 2014 World Cup," Blatter told a news conference.

"If this is the case then other football associations will have the right to use the goal-line technology."

FIFA will also decide in 2012 whether or not to have two extra officials behind the goal-line as a "general rule".

"It is not yet decided if the assistance of two additional assistant referees will be included a general rule," said Blatter.

"This will be done by an international board meeting in London that will take place immediately after the 2012

European Championships. Then, in July, we will have an indication how World Cup refereeing will be done in 2014."

Kuznetsova out of San Diego WTA

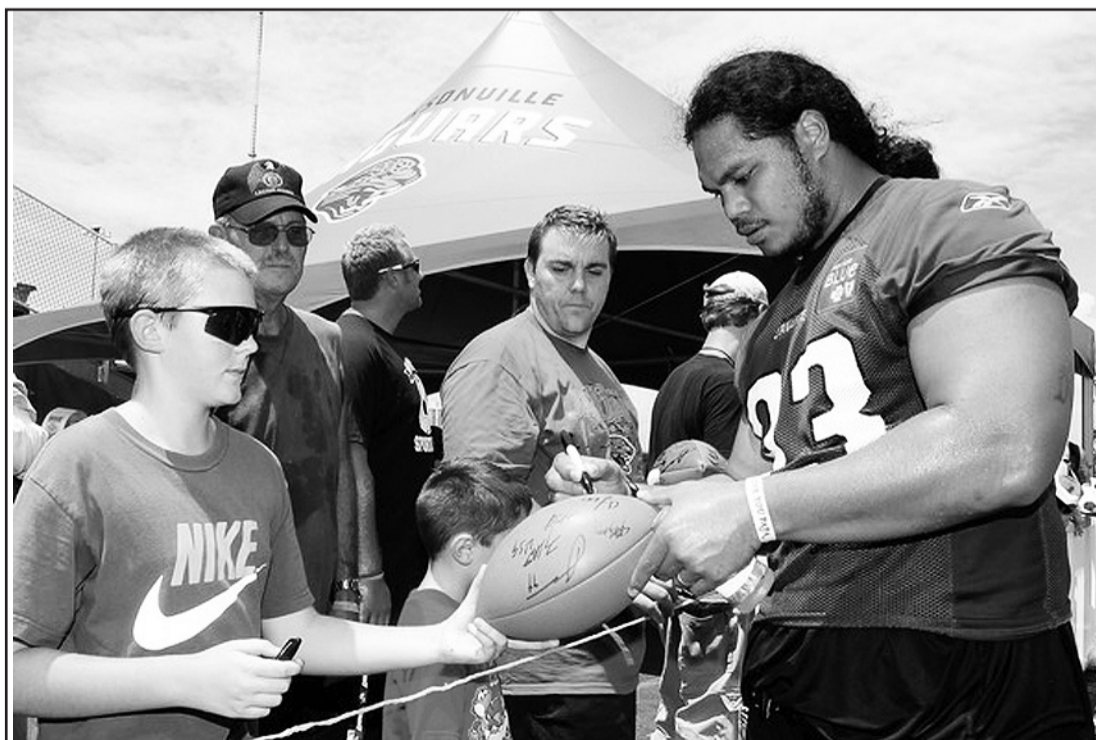
SAN DIEGO -- Defending champion Svetlana Kuznetsova withdrew Wednesday from next week's WTA San Diego Open, joining Grand Slam champions Kim Clijsters and Petra Kvitova in pulling out.

The 12th-ranked Kuznetsova, who last played in the third round at Wimbledon, did not reveal the reasons for her late withdrawal, telling her Twitter followers: "Sorry guys, I have to say I won't defend my title in San Diego and very sad about it."

Clijsters, the world number two who is still nursing the vestiges of a June ankle injury, deciding not to test her problem quite so far in advance of the August 29 start of the US Open, where she has won the last two editions.

Wimbledon champion Kvitova told officials this month that she is still suffering with an abdominal injury picked up at the All England club.

It's good to be back!



Tyson Alualu #93 of the Jacksonville Jaguars signs autographs following training camp at Florida Blue Health and Wellness practice fields yesterday in Jacksonville, Florida.

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American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	63	38	.624	--	PHILADELPHIA	65	37	.637	--
NY YANKEES	61	40	.604	2.0	ATLANTA	60	44	.577	6.0
TAMPA	53	49	.520	10.5	NY METS	52	51	.505	13.5
TORONTO	51	52	.495	13	WASHINGTON	50	53	.485	15.5
BALTIMORE	41	58	.414	21.0	FLORIDA	49	53	.480	16.0
Central	W	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct	GB
DETROIT	55	48	.534	--	ST. LOUIS	55	48	.534	--
CLEVELAND	52	50	.510	2.5	MILWAUKEE	55	49	.529	0.5
CHICAGO	50	52	.490	4.5	PITTSBURG	53	48	.525	1.0
MINNESOTA	48	55	.466	7.0	CINCINNATI	50	53	.485	5.0
KANSAS	43	60	.417	12.0	CHICAGO	42	61	.408	13.0
West	W	L	Pct	GB	West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	59	45	.567	--	HOUSTON	33	70	.320	22.0
LA ANGELES	57	48	.543	2.5	SAN FRANCISCO	59	44	.573	--
OAKLAND	46	57	.447	12.5	ARIZONA	56	47	.544	3.0
SEATTLE	43	60	.417	15.5	COLORADO	48	56	.462	11.5
					LA DODGERS	47	56	.456	12.0
					SAN DIEGO	45	59	.433	14.5

Big-hitting Beltran joins World Series champs



PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - Puerto Rican slugger Carlos Beltran, the National League doubles leader, was acquired by reigning World Series champion San Francisco yesterday from the New York Mets.

The Major League Baseball swap brings the All-Star rightfielder and cash to the Giants, who lead the National League West division, in exchange for minor-league pitcher Zack Wheeler.

"When you're defending world champions, you do have to try to defend that title any way you can," Giants general manager Brian Sabean said. "We're in first place. Hopefully we show we mean business."

The Giants, 60-44, are three games ahead of Arizona and 11 games ahead of the rest of the division, but with East division foes Philadelphia and Atlanta owning the league's best record and wild-card spot, there is no room for error.

"We are thrilled with bringing Carlos on board," Sabean said. "We really felt the organization needed a shot in the arm and more so our lineup."

Beltran, 34, brings power and a \$115 million contract he signed in 2005 that expires after this season. He is hitting .289 with 15 homes and 66 runs batted in as well as a league-leading 30 doubles.

Bradley dumped as US national team coach



CHICAGO (AFP) - Bob Bradley was fired as coach of the United States national football team yesterday, barely a year after guiding the Americans into the round of 16 at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

US Soccer Federation president Sunil Gulati announced the removal of

Bradley in a statement after a meeting between the two and US Soccer chief executive officer Dan Flynn in Los Angeles.

It comes just two days before the draw takes place in Rio for the 2014 World Cup qualifiers.

Bradley took over the US squad in January of 2007, first on an interim basis and then as the permanent replacement for Bruce Arena, who was dropped after the US failed to advance beyond the group stage at the 2006 World Cup.

Bradley went 43-25 with 12 drawn in his four and a half years guiding the US team, including an upset of Spain and a runner-up finish at the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup and a 2007 CONCACAF Gold Cup crown.

Bradley was given a contract extension through the 2014 World Cup after guiding the Americans to the

round of 16 at last year's World Cup, where they were eliminated by Ghana.

But the Americans lost to Mexico in last month's Gold Cup final, as they did in the 2009 Gold Cup championship match. The host US lineup squandered a 2-0 lead, lost 4-2 and the Bradley era was declared over a month later.

"We want to thank Bob Bradley for his service and dedication to US Soccer during the past five years," Gulati said.

"But we felt now was the right time for us to make a change. It is always hard to make these decisions, especially when it involves someone we respect as much as Bob. We wish him the best in his future endeavors."

There has been debate within the US football community about whether or not the national team might be better with a higher-profile coach from beyond US borders even after Arena led the team to the final eight at the 2002 World Cup.

Royals 4, Red Sox 3



BOSTON -- Alex Gordon #4, Mitch Maier #12 and Jeff Francoeur #21 of the Kansas City Royals celebrate their 4-3 win over the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park yesterday in Boston, Massachusetts.

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Aguero completes £38 million Man City switch



MANCHESTER (AFP) - Argentina striker Sergio Aguero completed his £38 million (\$62m) move to Manchester City on Thursday and immediately set his sights on sparking a major trophy haul.

The 23-year-old, who is the son-in-law of Argentina legend Diego Maradona, had already announced his move from Atletico Madrid on his Twitter account on Wednesday, but both the Spanish side and City waited until Thursday evening to confirm the deal.

"My style is to fight to the death for every ball and always give 100 percent, to be concentrated, give the maximum and to score goals. I have plenty to offer," he told the City website.

"I saw City win the FA Cup last season. I am sure that in the future we will be fighting for plenty of major trophies."

Aguero is seen as the answer to City's problems in attack, where Carlos Tevez has reiterated his desire to leave the English club.

His transfer is City's third major signing of the summer following the arrivals of Gael Clichy from Arsenal and Stefan Savic from Partizan Belgrade.

"I don't think I will have too many problems settling into the team," said Aguero.

"I will do what the manager asks me to do and try to work the way he wants me to. I am sure everything will be fine. I am very relaxed about it."

City announced that Aguero, who spent Wednesday in Manchester undergoing a medical, had signed a five-year contract and that he is likely to be in the squad for this weekend's Dublin Super Cup tournament.

He will wear the number 16 shirt.

Retired Japanese pitcher Irabu dead

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Hideki Irabu, a retired Japanese star pitcher who spent six years in North American Major League Baseball, has been found dead in his suburban home of an apparent suicide, police said. He was 42.

Irabu was found dead on Wednesday afternoon at his

home in Rancho Palos Verdes of what appeared to be suicide.

No other details were released as authorities continued to investigate the death of Irabu, who helped the New York Yankees to two World Series titles.

Irabu was a combined 34-35 with a 5.15 earned-run av-

erage in 126 games, 80 as a starter, over six Major League Baseball seasons playing for the Yankees, Montreal Expos and Texas Rangers before his retirement in 2002.

He joined the Yankees and helped the fabled club win World Series crowns in 1998 and 1999.

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